

# MING ORCHIDS AND MEDALLIONS

## December 2003

### Design Inspiration

This ensemble was designed for the 2004 AQS Fashion show. My aim was to combine quilting and embroidery in a fitted, shaped ensemble. The oriental styling of the garments is complemented by the choice of Chinese-inspired machine-embroidery designs. On the jacket, the background grid quilting is contrasted with trapunto and free-motion quilting designs which have been adapted from drawings of Ming dynasty plates.

### Fabrics

Jacket and purse: polyester shantung.

Top and Pants: 100% Thai silk.

### Embellishments

Jacket: machine embroidery designs from Brother card #56 using rayon thread, free-motion and machine-guided quilting, and machine trapunto using cotton thread.

Top: machine embroidery designs from Brother card #56 using rayon thread.

Purse: machine embroidery designs from Brother card #56, using rayon thread, machine-guided quilting using cotton thread.

### Patterns

Jacket: Simplicity 5347 (modified).

Top: Vogue 9698.

Pants: McCalls 9233.

Purse: original design.

### Special Sewing Techniques

The jacket pattern has been altered to include bands along the hem and sleeves. The curved shape of the bell sleeves necessitated cutting the bands on the bias. The machine-embroidery designs for the bands on the jacket and the front of the top were combined using editing software in order to minimize the number of hoopings. The trapunto surrounding the embroidered motifs on the back and the sleeves of the jacket is stitched entirely by machine, using wash-away basting thread to secure the extra batting layer before the final stitching.

After trimming away the excess batting, the design has been restitched using free-motion techniques. The medallions scattered over the surface of the jacket are also free-motion stitched. The remainder of the garment is grid quilted. The top is finished with piping and button loops. The purse has a pleated look which is achieved by running a drawstring through buttonholes in the casing at the top.

## **Exhibitions and Awards**

Design Excellence Award, AQS/Hobbs Bonded Fiber Fashion Show and Contest, April 2004.

Embroidery Enchantment Grand Prize Winner, Bernina University XXXIV, June 2004.

Best of Show - Wearables, Road 2 California, January 2005.

2nd place, Full Ensemble, Mid-Atlantic Wearable Art Festival XI, February 2005.

1st place, Quilted Clothing, 36th Annual NQA Quilt Show, June 2005.

1st place, Wearable Art, International Quilt Festival Houston, November 2005.

Exhibited at the 2006 International Quilt Festival, Chicago, April 2006.

Exhibited at the Patchwork and Quilt Expo X, Lyon, France, June 2006.